



Pray

How does Genesis 2:4-17 inspire you to pray?
Is there action you need to take?

How can this passage impact the way you pray for yourself and others?

How does this passage move you to thank and praise God?



“Paradise Gained” | Genesis 2:4-17
Study Guide 5 for sermon on 05/30/2021



Introduction

This portion of Scripture is simply beautiful. The world is in perfect harmony. Peace reigns in the Garden of Eden and between God and all creation... including Adam. When we look around at the brokenness and corruption in our own world, we innately know our own experience isn't the way things were supposed to be. Today's passage paints a portrait of that created order and causes our hearts to long for a day when paradise will be restored.



Overview

Context: Imagine being a Jewish man or woman hearing this read out loud while you're wandering, homeless, through the desert. You're awaiting a new home – a land flowing with milk and honey – and Eden causes your heart to flutter with hope.

Structure:

- The barren land (vv.5-6)
- God makes man (v.7)
- God makes a garden and puts man in the garden (vv.8-9)
- Description of the land and rivers (vv.10-14)
- Man's task in the garden (vv.15-17)



Engage

1. Why is it valuable to have an account of creation?
What's the actual daily impact of reading about creation?
2. Genesis 2:4-17 rewinds and brings us back into day 6 of creation. What are some similarities between this passage and Genesis 1:24-31?
3. How do we see things moving from "formless and void" into blessed order throughout 2:4-17?
4. How does verse 9 describe the trees God planted in Eden?
What does this say about our enjoyment of creation?
5. How does it shift our attitude towards sin and the devil to know that God planted both the tree of life *and* the tree of knowledge of good and evil? How does this give us security in our salvation?
6. Many scholars argue that Eden is described in a way that foreshadows the Tabernacle's layout (if interested, flip through Exodus 25:1-31:18). Why might this be significant?
7. Adam's (and later, Eve's) created mission in Eden was to "work it and keep it" (v.15). This is the same description of the Levites' ministry in the temple (Numbers 3:7-8).
What does this say about all of humanity's created mission in this world?
8. What permissions and restrictions did God give Adam?
What was Adam's created-posture towards creation/Eden?
9. What was the foretold consequence of disobedience?
10. Reflect on the personal care and intentionality of God in creation. How do we see this same intimate love displayed in the gospel? Why is this something important to highlight with our non-believing friends?